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Fifty-seventh session
(5-30 June 2017)

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Note

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Chapter I
Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 20 April 2017 and its substantive session from 5 to 30 June 2017 at United Nations Headquarters. It held a total of 15 formal meetings and a number of informal and "informal informal" consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the fifty-seventh session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019;
   (b) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-seventh session.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 20 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2017/L.2), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267, containing the information that, at its fifty-sixth session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system" (A/70/686) and the comments of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/70/686/Add.1) to its fifty-seventh session. At the same time, the Committee was advised that there were no further relevant reports of the Unit available to submit for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session.

Programme of work

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.51/2017/1) and the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2017/L.1) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 5 June, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the revised status of documentation (E/AC.51/2017/L.1/Rev.1) listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its programme of work with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session to take into account the pace of discussions.

7. Following the 2nd meeting, informal briefings were held by the Secretary of the Committee, on organizational matters, by the Executive Officer, Department of Management, on logistical matters, and by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and the Director, Inspection and Evaluation Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, on evaluation issues.

B. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, David Stansbury (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Chair of the Committee for the fifty-seventh session.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Vadim Pisarevich (Belarus) as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the session.

10. At its 11th meeting, on 9 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Mr. Rodrigo Otávio Penteado Moraes (Brazil) as Rapporteur of the Committee for the session.

11. The members of the Bureau for the fifty-seventh session of the Committee were:

Chair:

David **Stansbury** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Vice-Chairs:[1]

Vadim **Pisarevich** (Belarus)

Rapporteur:

Rodrigo Otávio **Penteado Moraes** (Brazil)

C. Attendance

12. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

[1] In the absence of any nomination for the position of Vice-Chair from the African States and the Asia-Pacific States, the seats remained vacant at the fifty-seventh session of the Committee.

Argentina
Armenia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
China
Cuba
Egypt
Eritrea
France
Haiti
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Namibia
Pakistan
Peru
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Zimbabwe

13. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria
Austria
Botswana
Chile
El Salvador
Indonesia
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Lebanon
Mexico
Morocco
Paraguay
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Spain
Switzerland

14. The following organization was represented as an observer: the European Union.

15. Also present at the session were the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations Environment Programme New York Office, the Assistant Secretary-General for Information and Communications Technology and Chief Information and Technology Officer; the

Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Director and Acting Special Adviser on Africa; the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; and other senior officials of the Secretariat.

16. The following reports were discussed by videoconference: the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 for programme 10: Trade and development and programme 12: Human settlements; the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluations of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; the Economic Commission for Europe; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; and the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016.

D. Documentation

17. The list of documents before the Committee at its fifty-seventh session is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

18. At the 15th meeting, on 30 June, the Chair of the Committee introduced the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2017/L.4 and Add. 1-24) and the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-eighth session (E/AC.51/2017/L.3).

19. At the same meeting, before the adoption of the draft report, the United Kingdom made an amendment to the draft report, by which the paragraph contained in document E/AC.51/2017/L.4/Add.18 would be inserted into section E of document E/AC.51/2017/L.4 as paragraph 23.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report, as orally amended.

21. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-eighth session and decided that it would be updated in the light of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2017 session and by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

22. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Cuba, Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Chair made concluding remarks.

Role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

23. The Committee reaffirmed its role as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination. In that respect, the Committee agreed that all recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) endorsed in the present report should be taken forward, as appropriate, in full accordance with the respective mandates of the bodies concerned.

Chapter II
Programme questions

A. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex)

24. At its 13th meeting, on 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex) (A/72/73/Rev.1).

25. It was recalled that, at its fifty-fifth session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the proposed revisions to article VII, Evaluation, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation to its fifty-seventh session and had recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to propose further revisions to article VII and the annex to the Regulations and Rules, taking into account relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The General Assembly endorsed that recommendation in its resolution 70/8 of 13 November 2015.

26. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

27. A delegation sought clarification on the role of the Central Evaluation Unit, as referenced in the report, and what was its role in connection with OIOS. A delegation sought clarification on the nature of the revisions proposed, while highlighting that many changes reflected the substitution of the term "medium-term plan" with the term "strategic framework", with the exception of the insertion of new regulation 7.4; and on whether the revisions had been mandated, in particular the proposed changes to the annex, designated in bold, on page 12 (the insertion of "objectives and"); page 14 (the insertion of "Indicators should ideally be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound"); and page 15 (the replacement of "Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit" with "Department of Management"). It was further requested that the resolutions providing justification for the proposed revisions be made available to the Committee (namely, resolutions 48/218 B, 58/269 and 67/236), as well as the revisions to the Regulations and Rules contained in ST/SGB/2000/8 and ST/SGB/2016/6.

28. Several delegations broadly supported the changes and underlined the factual nature of all proposed changes, adding that those changes had been under discussion since 2013. Furthermore, the delegations welcomed the proposed changes in the annex on the revised definition of the term "indicators of achievement", but indicated that they "should be" strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound (or "SMART"), and not "ideally be" as proposed. The delegations expressed the view that the revision addressed earlier requests of the Committee regarding the quality of indicators to be included in the results-based management framework, so as to foster the accountability of the Secretariat.

29. In respect of the proposed insertion of regulation 7.4, several delegations expressed some concern regarding the proposed inclusion of the new regulation.

Notably, the delegations highlighted the OIOS reports currently before the Committee on the evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions, in which OIOS referred to and drew broad conclusions regarding resources when the scope of the evaluations had been narrow. The delegations sought clarification on whether the endorsement by the Committee of the proposed new regulation 7.4 would result in increased resource requirements in those two cases, as well as in future cases.

Conclusions and recommendations

30. **The Committee reaffirmed its role of verifying that the programmes of activities of the Organization were implemented in line with the legislative mandates and that the full implementation of regulations and rules should be ensured.**

31. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex), subject to the following modifications:**

Regulation 7.4

The Committee did not agree with the recommendation to insert a new regulation 7.4 and recommended that it not be included.

Annex II

Monitoring

Replace the definition of "Monitoring" with the following:

Monitoring is the periodic determination by the head of a department or office of the actual delivery of final outputs in comparison with the commitments for the delivery of outputs set out in the programme budget as approved by the General Assembly.

Consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

32. At its 12th and 14th meetings, on 12 and 22 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and Corr.2 and A/72/84/Add.1).

33. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

34. A delegation expressed appreciation for the presentation of the report and sought clarification of whether all the proposed programme budget fascicles for the biennium 2018-2019 were before the Committee, in addition to confirmation that the biennial programme plans in those fascicles were identical to those contained in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1). It was recalled that, pursuant to regulation 5.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6), the

Committee was to review the proposed programme budget to ensure that the narratives of the programme budget fascicles were identical to the approved biennial programme plan and report on its deliberations.

Conclusions and recommendations

35. **The Committee, in line with its conclusion in paragraph 66 of its report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16) and with General Assembly resolution 67/236, reiterated its expectation that indicators of achievement and objectives put forward for consideration under the biennial programme plan for the period 2020-2021 should ideally be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.**

Programme 2
Political affairs

36. At its 14th meeting, on 22 June 2017, the Committee considered the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84/Add.1).

37. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the subprogramme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

38. The establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the recent appointment of the Under-Secretary-General to head the Office were welcomed.

39 A delegation noted that the programme should be commensurate with the administrative structure of the Office. The delegation also noted that no changes had been made to the programme, including with regard to initiatives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, seeking clarification of whether there would be such changes, including new initiatives, in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

40. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84/Add.1).**

Programme 10
Trade and development

41. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

42. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

43. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the introduction of the revisions to programme 10, Trade and development, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and for the efforts undertaken to streamline the work of UNCTAD and make it more flexible in responding to the needs of member States.

44. Some delegations welcomed and expressed support for the alignment of the programme and its resources with the Nairobi Maafikiano, the outcome document of the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, and for the focus of the programme on regional integration. Some delegations welcomed the proposal to align UNCTAD resources with the aim of supporting developing countries in implementing goals towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One delegation stressed the importance of facilitating the integration of small- and medium-sized businesses into the global value chain. One delegation expressed appreciation for the role of UNCTAD as a vital forum for supporting developing countries and economies in transition, highlighting in particular the enhanced cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union.

45. Some delegations expressed support for the increased efforts of UNCTAD to be nimble and lean and, in that regard, stressed the importance of developing an evaluation mechanism to show that the results achieved were consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. Some delegations expressed disappointment with the indicators of achievement owing to their being quantitative rather than qualitative in nature. In that respect, UNCTAD was requested to improve the formulation of the indicators of achievement and the thematic presentation of outputs. One delegation commented on the presentation of some tables in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1) and highlighted table 12.19 on categories of outputs and final outputs in particular, seeking clarification on the rationale for such a list and for the use of quantity rather than quality to measure outcomes and results.

46. One delegation sought clarification on the reference to the activities of the World Trade Organization in paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General.

47. With regard to the placement of cross-cutting activities, such as those concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, within subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, referred to in paragraph 16 (f) of the report, some delegations noted that additional posts had been approved by the General Assembly for those activities. However, they questioned whether such activities that were cross-cutting in nature might be better placed in the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

48. Some delegations sought clarification on the mandate for strengthening the work of UNCTAD in the area of statistics, as outlined in paragraph 18 (f) of the report, under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the mandate of UNCTAD and the possible duplication of efforts in the area of debt, with respect to which there appeared to be an attempt to conflate debt with the activities of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which seemed to go beyond the mandate of UNCTAD and the Nairobi Maafikiano.

49. One delegation noted some of the cuts in resource requirements in the regular budget and expressed the hope that those cuts would not affect the quality of management, but rather would enable more rational use of resources and help

UNCTAD to work with the donor community in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

50. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1), subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 6

Replace the second sentence with the following: "Through its work to promote development-centred globalization, UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including poverty eradication, improving the well-being of citizens, addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization and contributing to the achievement of all relevant Sustainable Development Goals."

Replace the last sentence with the following: "The specific development needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, according to their needs, should be addressed at both the research and technical assistance levels in accordance with the Nairobi Maafikiano and other given mandates."

Paragraph 9

Replace the second sentence with the following: "As sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD has a key role to play within the United Nations system in building consensus around more development-centred globalization, which can contribute to the promotion of sustainable development, increased productive capacities for economic structural transformation, sustainable debt management, job creation, poverty eradication and stronger multilateralism."

Paragraph 14

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 14, reading:

In the area of statistics, UNCTAD will continue to assist requesting countries in improving their compilation and dissemination of official statistics and make available a wide range of data, including current UNCTAD statistical products, to inform and assist decision-making.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Strategy

Paragraph 16 (c) (iv)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (b)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (i)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis of trends and prospects for North-South cooperation, as well as South-South integration and cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in the areas of trade, finance, investment and technology;

Paragraph 17 (j)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Assessing, including through research and analysis on a regular basis, and promoting consensus on how development cooperation and partnerships, including those involving North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation, can further contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries;

Paragraph 18

Replace the existing text with the following:

Within its mandate, UNCTAD will focus on:

(a) Continuing to provide information and statistics on a range of statistics and statistical indicators dealing with trade, investment, debt, macroeconomics, finance, debt sustainability, globalization and sustainable development;

(b) Enhancing the quality of UNCTAD statistics by implementing the United Nations Statistical Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that best international standards are adopted and a common quality standard across all UNCTAD statistical products is applied;

(c) Contributing to research and development by providing high-quality and timely statistics and through the provision of statistical advice and expertise;

(d) Facilitating the exchange of information on key development issues, through the free dissemination of a range of statistical products tailored to different audiences, making key information accessible to everyone, irrespective of statistical expertise;

(e) Providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for statistical experts, government officials, academia and policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in coordination and cooperation with relevant partners;

(f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop their national statistical systems and improve statistical literacy in cooperation with other United Nations statistical agencies and international organizations.

Subprogramme 2
Investment and enterprise

Strategy

Paragraph 20 (d)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Support efforts by developing countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as middle-income countries, according to their needs, to build productive capacities and internationally competitive firms, in cooperation with ITC;

Subprogramme 3
International trade and commodities

Strategy

Paragraph 23 (i)

Delete the word "enhancing".

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

Strategy

Paragraph 26 (m)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Contributing, as a member of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the implementation of outcomes related to science, technology and innovation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

Subprogramme 5
Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

Strategy

Paragraph 28

In the fifth sentence revert to the original language as approved in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), reading: "The subprogramme will assist all beneficiaries in their efforts to successfully achieve economic diversification and structural transformation."

Programme 12
Human settlements

51. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

52. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

53. Clarification was sought as to whether the proposed changes to the biennial programme plan for 2018-2019, in particular the strategy, had been scrutinized and approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). A delegation pointed out that more precise references to mandates, resolutions and outcome documents from international conferences, such as the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which justified the proposed changes to the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), should be included.

54. In reference to the results-based management framework, a delegation highlighted the fact that the indicators of achievement put forward did not provide clarity regarding the impact of the activities of the programme. In particular, there were no concrete benchmarks, such as percentages or concrete numbers, but rather references to an "increased number", which the delegation considered would not permit activities to be satisfactorily assessed. The delegation sought clarification as to how to measure performance without concrete targets and how to reorient programmes in respect of changing agendas.

Conclusions and recommendations

55. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (), subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Urban legislation, land and governance

Overall orientation

Paragraph 42

Replace the second sentence with the following: "In this respect, the programme of work will include a cohesive portfolio of projects and initiatives that will respond to recent global strategic processes, including, within the mandate of UN-Habitat, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the outcome of the 2016 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, the "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants"."

Replace the third sentence with the following: "The following seven subprogammes continue to be a vehicle for support by UN-Habitat to Member States and other partners, as appropriate, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and related global priorities:"

Paragraph 50

Replace the last sentence with the following: "This may have a significant impact on achieving development outcomes in the field."

Paragraph 52

Replace the first sentence with the following: "At the global and, when requested, including as already defined through its mandate and relevant resolutions, the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat will coordinate, cooperate and collaborate with United Nations funds, agencies and programmes to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda by governments."

Strategy

Paragraph 56 (b)

Replace the last sentence with the following: "Through the Global Land Tool Network and linked to UN-Habitat field projects, the subprogramme will support the adoption of policies and tools in priority areas, including the administration and regulation of land markets; fit-for-purpose and inclusive land records and land management systems; local, subnational and national capacity to manage land issues; improved land-based financing systems; inclusive land allocation and distribution strategies; the use of land readjustment as a means to acquire public space, develop housing space and improve urban layout; and the adoption of tools for land tenure security for women and the most vulnerable;"

Subprogramme 3
Urban economy and municipal finance

Strategy

Paragraph 61

Replace the first sentence with the following: "The subprogramme supports local, subnational and national authorities in adopting or implementing inclusive policies and strategies that are supportive of inclusive economic growth and development, the creation of economic opportunities for all, particularly young men and women and the most vulnerable, and improved municipal finance."

Subprogramme 4
Urban basic services

Strategy

Paragraph 63 (a)

Replace the third sentence with the following: "Efforts will focus on strengthening the technical and management capacity of governments and service providers to ensure institutional efficiency and effectiveness in service provision and to provide adequate levels of service for the urban poor, including to community institutions such as schools and hospitals, engaging in national and subnational policy and sector reform processes to mainstream urban basic services into national urban policies and practices, with a particular focus on the urban poor and the most vulnerable, and undertaking advocacy and networking on urban basic services."

Paragraph 63 (b)

Replace the fourth sentence with the following: "Pro-poor financing mechanisms will be developed to mobilize support for the urban poor and the most vulnerable."

Paragraph 63 (c)

Replace the seventh sentence with the following: "The subprogramme will take into account the needs and priorities of the urban poor and the most vulnerable."

Subprogramme 7
Urban research and capacity development

Strategy

Paragraph 69 (b)

Replace the second sentence with the following: "In this connection, UN-Habitat will disseminate the most reliable, relevant, up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge on sustainable urbanization issues, including as part of its contribution to the quadrennial report on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda."

Paragraph 69 (c)

Replace the last sentence with the following: "UN-Habitat and its partners will, within its mandate, support the execution of regional

capacity-building programmes that respond to the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda effectively."

Programme 25
Management and support services

56. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

57. The Assistant Secretary-General/Chief Information Technology Officer introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

58. Some delegations welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General and the leadership shown in information and communications technology. A delegation expressed appreciation for the continued efforts of the Secretariat to reduce the fragmentation of information and communications technology and increase collaboration in the implementation of the information and communications technology strategy.

59. Some delegations stressed the importance of developing a robust information and communications technology system in the broader context of the effectiveness and transparency of resources and to ensure effective governance. A delegation noted the significant progress made in that regard, including improved collaboration between the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Field Support, and emphasized the importance of creating improved performance metrics that would permit reporting on the timely submission of documentation and on air travel, and better measurement of videoconferencing services. As regards air travel, clarification was sought as to how such metrics could be further enhanced for broader application.

60. A delegation noted that the expected accomplishments set out in the report reflected those of the Secretariat for the biennium 2018-2019. A delegation remarked that in general there was a lack of focus on impact and results within the Organization, with more focus placed on inputs and outputs. The delegation sought clarification as to what more could be done to clearly define the impact.

61. A delegation noted that the transfer of functions proposed in the report was in response to existing mandates. A delegation sought clarification regarding the language proposed for removal from subprogramme 3, Field support, of programme 28, Safety and security, which did not appear to be the same language proposed for inclusion in component 4, Application and website development support, of subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology strategic management and coordination, of programme 25, Management and support services. Clarification was sought as to the reasons for the difference, and whether all functions would be transferred or some would remain under programme 28.

62. One delegation referred to the increase in resource requirements for the programme and noted that it would be considered in the context of the budget review during the main part of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

63. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 25, Management and support services, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 29E, Office of Information and Communications Technology, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 29E)).**

Programme 28
Safety and security

64. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

65. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

66. Some delegations expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Department of Safety and Security in working closely with the Office of Information and Communications Technology to ensure the safety of staff and the security of information. In view of the challenges arising from the different forms of danger and attacks that posed a threat to physical safety and cybersecurity at United Nations Headquarters and field locations, clarification was sought regarding the extent of the involvement of the Department in mitigating the risks, particularly in the field, in order to guarantee information security.

67. Some delegations sought further clarification on the difference between the language proposed for removal from programme 28, Safety and security, of the Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and the language proposed for addition to programme 25, Management and support services. As a result of the changes in subprogramme 3, Field support, of programme 28, clarification was sought as to whether the capacity to locate staff members and eligible dependants at all United Nations locations worldwide would remain a function of the Department of Safety and Security, as that was not reflected in the proposal of the Office.

Conclusions and recommendations

68. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 28, Safety and security, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 34)).**

B. Evaluation

1. Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives

69. At its 3rd meeting, on 5 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/72/72).

70. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

71. Delegations noted the continued importance of evaluation in enhancing accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, learning and decision-making across the Secretariat and expressed appreciation for the comprehensive report. Several delegations endorsed the recommendations made in the report, which were aimed at aligning the timing of evaluations, programme planning, budgeting and outputs and at providing greater clarity in the use of evaluation budgets. A delegation enquired as to whether an overlap existed between triennial reviews and annual assessments. Some delegations expressed general satisfaction with the improvements reported in the evaluation functions within offices and departments across the Secretariat. A delegation saw the need for more visible follow-up by the offices reviewed.

72. Several delegations sought clarification on whether OIOS had provided guidance to entities on how their reports could be improved. Clarification was further sought on the role of OIOS in undertaking evaluations, conducting follow-up on the gaps raised in the report and its ability to support and guide entities in strengthening their respective evaluation functions. A delegation observed that, in the report, reference had been made to data collection only, and not data processing, and enquired as to how the limitations listed in paragraph 3 of the report were being addressed.

73. Regarding table 1 of the report, a delegation observed that the overall situation had improved since 2015 in terms of the number of entities which had no evaluation unit and no evaluation activity, while cautioning against duplication of efforts and resources with regard to departments with an independent evaluation unit located in duty stations such as New York, which also had an OIOS presence. In that regard, OIOS was encouraged to identify efficiencies, and the need for an independent evaluation unit was questioned. In terms of the Organization's risk management plan the same delegation underlined that more attention should be given to the Department of Management, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in terms of managing extrabudgetary resources.

74. Regarding figures 4 and 5 and paragraph 12 of the report, delegations enquired about the use of a standardized methodology and quality control across entities and about the development of the screening criteria, how they were used and how they were monitored across entities.

75. Several delegations drew attention to the issues discussed in paragraph (d) of the summary and section D of the report regarding how a difference of 90 per cent or more had been observed between resources allocated to discretionary self-evaluation and the costs of producing evaluation reports for 13 entities, thus suggesting the limited accuracy of reported budgets and the inclusion of activities

that did not result in the production of evaluation reports under the discretionary self-evaluation allocation. Delegations enquired as to how OIOS had addressed the mismatch between allocated resources and expenditure on evaluations, to ensure better alignment in the future.

76. In reference to paragraph 21 of the report, one delegation enquired as to whether the impact of the revised guidelines issued to budget and evaluation focal points on the reporting of evaluation allocations could be shared before 2019, such as at the first resumed session in March 2018 of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, taking into consideration the fact that the information would feed into the consideration by the Assembly of the various reform initiatives on peacekeeping operations and management planned to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

77. A number of delegations expressed concern over the quality and impact of evaluation reports (including the impact of page limitations placed on putting forward recommendations), and noted in particular the high proportion of non-actionable recommendations emerging from the evaluations, as cited in paragraph 16 of the report. In that regard, delegations sought clarification as to why such recommendations had been considered non-actionable, whether they had been aimed at programmes or subprogrammes, and what measures could be taken to address the issue. Some delegations further noted the high proportion of recommendations that were not implemented and queried whether the low rate of implementation of recommendations was uniformly problematic across entities or whether certain entities faced the problem more acutely than others.

78. Recalling paragraph 28 of the report, regarding the development of usable recommendations, one delegation remarked that the weak nature of recommendations called into question their value and the utility and impact of reports, which undermined the evaluation function at large, and enquired whether a realistic action plan had been established to improve the implementation of recommendations. Another delegation enquired whether conducting participatory evaluations, as described in paragraph 27 of the report, facilitated the success and utility of evaluations.

79. Some delegations expressed the expectation that evaluation policies and reports should support the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, a delegation referred to the United Nations Evaluation Group meeting held in May 2017 in Vienna, which focused on seven of the Goals.

80. Delegations enquired about the entities which had not undertaken any evaluation activity during the biennium, as well as those that did not yet have an evaluation policy. In reference to paragraph 22 of the report, on the limited evaluation practice in some entities, one delegation highlighted the fact that six entities had not submitted reports, despite the allocation of evaluation funds, and underlined the need for an improved mechanism to address that issue and ensure the delivery of expected outputs. One delegation highlighted that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) had carried out evaluations with limited resources and enquired as to whether other entities could follow that example of good practice. Building on that observation, another delegation enquired as to the existence of a single recommendation on expenditure for the preparation of such evaluations. Some delegations appreciated efforts made by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services in supporting the establishment of evaluation policies across the six entities, noting the importance of senior management support in establishing an evaluation culture across the Organization, and ensuring that offices involved were "in sync". A delegation requested information on the measures taken by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to strengthen evaluation.

81. Some delegations objected to the reference in the report, to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people as a vulnerable population or "persons with specific needs", stressing that there was no consensus on the matter. Serious concern was raised over carrying out non-consensual activities and using non-consensual terms in the reports submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. Some delegations noted that LGBT was an agreed United Nations term, as shown by Human Rights Council resolutions 17/19 of 17 June 2011, 27/32 of 26 September 2014 and 32/2 of 30 June 2016.

82. Regarding section V of the report, on the overall quality of reports and selected results from evaluations conducted in 2014-2015, one delegation enquired as to how the ratings of reports could be improved, why there was a quality deficit and about the systematic deficiencies observed in the reports not rated as excellent. Regarding table 2 in the section, the same delegation expressed concern over the fact that many subprogrammes were not included in the evaluation reports produced in 2014-2015 and sought clarification as to the reasons. Regarding paragraph 37 under the section, a delegation sought clarification on "Development of Africa" and whether it was a reference to the offices in the region or to broader considerations in Africa.

83. Recalling figure XII of the report on the distribution of evaluation reports by priority area in 2014-2015, one delegation noted the lower proportion of evaluations in the area of peace and security, including peacekeeping operations (which had been carried out in the past and made available to the Committee for consideration), giving rise to the concern that the distribution of evaluation activity across the Secretariat did not appear to be commensurate with the high risk rating given to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in OIOS risk assessments. One delegation requested further clarity on evaluation priority areas such as the development of Africa, peace and security matters, human rights, sexual abuse and exploitation and gender and observed that presenting a better mix of positive, mixed and negative results from the evaluation reports would be more useful, adding that a more analytical approach to reports with a negative result would increase effectiveness and overall performance.

Conclusions and recommendations

84. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 63 of the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/72/72).**

85. **The Committee noted with appreciation that most entities housed their evaluation function in a dedicated evaluation unit, that the number of entities with evaluation policies and plans had increased and that many entities had established direct reporting lines from the evaluation unit to the head of the entity.**

86. **The Committee expressed concern regarding the finding of the report on the proportion of evaluation recommendations that were not actionable, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that evaluation recommendations were actionable and that evaluation results were utilized in implementing programme priorities and developing budget requests.**

87. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make better use of in-house expertise in carrying out evaluations in the entities of the Secretariat, in particular the experience**

available from the internal and external oversight bodies, notably OIOS, the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit.

88. The Committee stressed the need for improvement in the quality of evaluation and noted that OIOS had identified good practices such as strategic planning and participatory evaluations.

89. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take concrete steps to increase buy-in from senior leadership and strengthen the culture of evaluation and accountability throughout the Organization. The Committee highlighted the importance of ensuring that senior managers' compacts include adequate programme objectives and performance measures in order to fulfil given mandates in accordance with the relevant regulations and rules and that the evaluation function receives due consideration in their performance appraisal.

90. The Committee emphasized that evaluation was a key function for the adoption of budgetary decisions, since it not only helped to improve programme design and execution, as well as the formulation of policy directives, but also contributed to transparency and the efficient use of resources in the effective implementation of intergovernmental mandates.

91. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to take further action to strengthen the evaluation functions, such as the development of evaluation structures in Secretariat entities that currently lack them, the tracking of evaluation workplans and enhancements to staff evaluation expertise.

92. The Committee emphasized that the evaluation function, in particular self-evaluation, was an essential managerial tool and that senior managers had a responsibility to use evaluation to improve performance.

93. The Committee expressed concern that a large proportion of subprogrammes had not been subject to evaluation reports during 2014-2015 and that some priority areas, such as justice and law and disarmament, had received minimal evaluation coverage.

94. The Committee selected the following reviews for consideration at its fifty-eighth session, in 2018: the triennial reviews of the implementation of recommendations from the 2015 evaluations for UNHCR, UN-Women, UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UN-Habitat.

95. The Committee selected the following evaluations for consideration at its fifty-ninth session, in 2019: the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence Against Children; the Department of Public Information; the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Office for Disarmament Affairs; the Department of Management; UNHCR; the Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Environment Programme.

2. Evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs

96. At its 7th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs (E/AC.51/2017/6 and Corr.1).

97. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

98. Delegations expressed appreciation for the evaluation report, with several citing its quality and insightfulness, particularly in the light of the challenges of evaluating the highly qualitative nature of the work of the Department. Delegations conveyed support for the recommendations, explicitly citing recommendations 1 and 3. A delegation encouraged the Department to implement the recommendations within existing resources. A delegation enquired as to the periodicity of evaluations and the reasons that the Department had not been evaluated since 2008, taking into account that, on the basis of the risk assessment that the Inspection and Evaluation Division had undertaken, the Department was at the top of the list (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 1).

99. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work of the Department, particularly its good offices, and for its mediation and conflict prevention work in the field. Furthermore, delegations emphasized the importance of the Department's mandate and its role in advising the Secretary-General in his own good offices work, for example, in the area of human rights. A delegation enquired whether the efficiency and the effectiveness of the support provided by the Department was recognized, bearing in mind the complexity of analysing its accountability procedures. A delegation observed that the Department faced structural difficulties in carrying out its functions, and welcomed the upcoming initiatives of the Secretary-General in addressing those issues, including co-location within the Secretariat and fostering a shift in mentality.

100. Clarification was requested of the Department regarding the reasons behind the increased number of conflicts around the world since 1990, and the potential links with the work of the Department (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 8). A delegation queried the Department on the drivers behind the increasing number of special political missions during the period under evaluation (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 11). In that regard, the focus of the report on those missions was questioned. One delegation enquired as to the degree of engagement between those missions and national authorities, and also enquired as to how the performance of such missions was appraised. In the context of non-mission support provided by the Department in the past, a delegation enquired as to the reference in paragraph 25 of the report to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as an anecdotal case of a country that had benefited from the support of the Department.

101. Updates were sought on the specific measures that the Department had been taking, or intended to take, to address the weaknesses highlighted in the report. Areas on which clarification was sought included: analytical gaps; the lack of early warning analyses and exit strategies; proposals by the Secretary-General to improve the peace and security architecture, including recommendations from the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations; insufficient measures for ensuring field-level accountability (see E/AC.51/2017/6, paras. 51 and 52); harnessing knowledge to improve performance; and the lack of gender parity, particularly among mediators. With regard to the Department's analytical gaps, questions were raised regarding the sharing of political analysis with other departments and with the Security Council. In reference to paragraph 37 of the report, a delegation enquired whether the establishment of the analysis and strategic planning unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would help address analytical gaps, including in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention. Reiterating the importance of accountability and oversight of work performed in the

field, concerns were raised regarding one of the report's findings concerning the lack of compacts among some categories of senior mission leadership, and calls were made for the improvement of accountability systems in the future. A delegation enquired as to the reasons for the underrepresentation of women in high-level posts and the remedial actions taken to correct the issue. In that regard, the Department was encouraged to strengthen its efforts to achieve greater gender parity.

102. Specific concerns were voiced regarding the Department's partnerships, specifically the potential duplication between the Department and other United Nations entities in providing specific areas of support, including in some areas which were considered as falling outside the Department's expertise (for example, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the area of human rights, as referenced in paragraph 24 of the report, or with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with regard to peacekeeping operations). A delegation raised the issue of standby teams and associated shortcomings and actions that the Department planned to take to address the issue, including linking them to the upcoming proposals of the Secretary-General on peace and security. A delegation sought further information on the extent to which the Department had partnered with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in the context of providing support to non-mission settings (see E/AC.51/2017/6, para. 32). Concerning paragraph 6 (d) of the report, a delegation requested clarification on the role of the Department in the election-related assistance that would be provided to Member States.

103. A delegation raised concerns regarding the root causes of the different ratings by stakeholder groups of the Department's effectiveness (Headquarters versus field staff versus Peace and Development Advisers), as presented in figure V of the report. Furthermore, noting the information contained in paragraph 31 of the report and the different tiers of criticality for countries in conflict supported by the Department, a delegation raised concerns regarding the criteria the Department employed in deciding which conflict settings to support, and whether and why some high-criticality settings were not supported, while other lower-criticality settings were.

104. A delegation enquired about the possibility that the Committee could provide recommendations to Member States in order to address deficiencies in intergovernmental decision-making processes as highlighted in the report, which created challenges for the Department, citing, for example, Security Council mandates, which, as the report indicated, rarely changed. A delegation offered the view that the Committee should not offer recommendations to Member States, which would go beyond its remit.

105. One delegation raised concerns regarding the frequency with which OIOS intended to evaluate the Department in the future, pointing out that it had rated the Department as high-risk in the risk assessment it had presented to the Committee at its informal meeting on 5 June 2017. A delegation raised questions regarding the extent to which OIOS had consulted with host Governments during the inception phase of the evaluation, especially considering the evaluation's focus, and expressed interest in increased collaboration with the evaluation team before and during the evaluation. A delegation underlined that case studies, a survey and a documentation review had been undertaken in order to perform the analysis of the Department. In reference to figure III, the delegation underlined that 1.2 billion dollars represented 23 per cent of the Organization's regular budget for political affairs, and sought further information on the inclusion of the Department's budget performance in future performance evaluations. A delegation noted the absence of an evaluation for the biennium 2014-2015 and enquired as to the reasons.

106. A delegation sought clarification regarding paragraph 45 of the report, concerning, notably, the fact that the Department was not structured to produce independent evaluations of performance either at the Headquarters or at the field level and that there was as yet no dedicated evaluation office, thus setting it apart from most other Secretariat entities.

Conclusions and recommendations

107. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse recommendations 1, 2 and 3 contained in paragraph 59 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs (E/AC.51/2017/6 and Corr.1).**

108. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of recommendation 4 contained in paragraph 59 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs.**

109. **The Committee recalled the importance of holding the most senior staff of the Department of Political Affairs accountable, and noted that the Inspection and Evaluation Division had first highlighted the issue in its 2006-2008 evaluation.**

3. Evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe

110. At its 6th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/AC.51/2017/5).

111. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS, the Executive Secretary of ECE and representatives of ECE, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

112. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of OIOS, particularly with regard to its analysis of the role of ECE in supporting member countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

113. Delegations commended the multilateral activities of ECE and its work in sustainable development in general and the Sustainable Development Goals in particular. Delegations indicated that they considered the Commission to be a promising discussion platform for normative and regional processes, and noted that its technical expertise and standard-setting work were important for the achievement of the entire range of the Goals. One delegation noted with satisfaction that an international conference on the Goals held in their country had been successfully supported by ECE. Another delegation referred to the concentration of project activity in the area of the environment, and clarification was sought from ECE regarding that issue. As regards the normative and standard-setting nature of the work of ECE, a question was raised on how the Commission monitored the impact of its norms and standards, since such monitoring did not appear to be done systematically.

114. Several delegations discussed the global, as opposed to the regional, nature of the work and outputs of ECE. One delegation questioned OIOS about defining a convention as global rather than regional on the basis of the criterion of only one non-member country being a signatory. The delegation noted that other regional economic commissions had mandates and activities in the same areas in which ECE carried out its work, and that regional commissions had their own regional

specificities to consider, even though membership in the commissions often included member countries outside their respective regions.

115. A delegation commented that, although the report appeared to reflect the assumption that the global focus of some of the activities of ECE was not considered to be positive, it was of the view that that focus was positive for both the Commission and non-member countries. Furthermore, the delegation recognized the effort of ECE in mapping its global outputs and enquired what the Commission considered to be the likely result of that exercise.

116. A number of delegations discussed the potential financial implications of a global focus and the resources that would be required to cope with increased demands. One delegation commended ECE for finding ways to realize efficiencies and for working within the confines of its current budget, and sought clarification regarding the actual increases in cost that had occurred when ECE products became more widely available.

117. A delegation reiterated some of the challenges raised in the report, namely, the need to cooperate with partners within and outside ECE and the significant increase in workload, together with cuts in resources. The delegation sought clarification as to how ECE was planning to ensure the future implementation of its programmes in those circumstances, taking into account the various instruments that the Commission had at its disposal.

Conclusions and recommendations

118. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 57 to 61 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of ECE (E/AC.51/2017/5).**

119. **With regard to recommendation 3, the Committee took note that the issue had been the subject of discussion within ECE.**

120. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage ECE to continue to promote economic integration and interconnectivity in line with the existing mandate of the Commission.**

4. Evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

121. At its 6th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of ESCWA (E/AC.51/2017/4).

122. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCWA and representatives of OIOS, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

123. Delegations expressed their appreciation for and concurred with the recommendations in the report of OIOS, noting that it contained useful and invaluable assessments of ESCWA and how it had adapted and reprioritized its available resources to respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Delegations also recognized the efforts undertaken by ESCWA to carry out its work against the backdrop of the complex regional context within which it was operating.

124. Observations were also made about the management response to the report provided by ESCWA on how it intended to move forward with the recommendations made by OIOS, and one delegation noted with appreciation the promptness of

ESCWA action in addressing, making progress in and moving forward with the implementation of those recommendations.

125. One delegation sought clarification on the methodology used in the report pertaining to the extent to which survey responses had been used as the sole method to support the results, as opposed to triangulation with other sources of data. Clarification was also sought on the support that ESCWA had provided on the substantive servicing of the regional intergovernmental processes, noting that the evaluation methodology did not cover the programme of work of ESCWA relating to conference management services and administration, even though in paragraph 22 of the report mention was made of the important broker role played by ESCWA in the region and its effectiveness in facilitating regional and thematic forums in support of regional decision-making.

126. Clarification was sought on the normative role of ESCWA versus its capacity-building and technical assistance role, especially in the light of the support that it provided to countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and on how such activities undertaken by regional commissions dovetailed with the activities of the specialized funds and programmes, which themselves played a normative role in development. A delegation indicated that the real structure of publications was troubling and indicated that, from a results-based perspective, there were deficient dissemination practices and feedback mechanisms with regard to publications (E/AC.51/2017/4, para. 34).

127. A question was raised about the role of ESCWA in consensus building and facilitating decision-making and dialogue, noting that a resolution recently adopted contained contentious language that resulted in a vote on the resolution, as opposed to its adoption by consensus.

128. One delegation questioned the percentage of resources allocated for gender-related activities as reflected in the subprogramme for the advancement of women and for the conflict mitigation and development subprogramme, noting that the budget allocations for the two subprogrammes were relatively low compared with other subprogrammes of ESCWA.

Conclusions and recommendations

129. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 58 to 62 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of ESCWA (E/AC.51/2017/4), subject to the provision below.

130. In addition to the measures set out in recommendation 2, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to raise the efficiency of the publications of ESCWA in the areas most useful to its stakeholders and consumers.

5. Evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

131. At its 9th meeting, on 8 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2017/11).

132. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

133. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report, including the recommendations, and supported the balanced analysis of the advocacy work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Delegations underlined the critical leadership role of the Office in coordinating international humanitarian assistance to people affected by humanitarian crises (for example in South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic), and expressed appreciation for the Office's culture of assistance, notwithstanding the increasing volume, magnitude, duration and intensity of crises globally. A delegation requested the Office to consider how it could better capture the staff time and resources it expended in executing its many advocacy activities, as referenced in paragraphs 14 and 19 of the report. A delegation further requested an update on recommendation 3, regarding preparatory steps in the development of a new advocacy strategy based on evidence, experience and audience insight and including clear advocacy objectives. The delegation emphasized the importance of articulating such objectives in 2018.

134. Delegations noted that there were many countries in which crises had been ongoing for decades, but were no longer well publicized in the media. Referencing paragraph 32 of the report, delegations agreed with the OIOS conclusion that advocacy efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should systematically include those "forgotten crises" irrespective of their location, and not solely focus on those featured in the media. A delegation emphasized that the Office's attention to crises should be guided by the principles of neutrality and non-discrimination, through the identification of those in need above all other considerations. A delegation contrasted the examples of the Syrian Arab Republic, where the Office had issued 127 advocacy outputs between 2013 and 2016; Yemen, where the number of persons in need was 1.5 times higher and yet the Office had issued only 64 advocacy outputs; and African countries (see E/AC.51/2017/11, figure VIII), where the discrimination in advocacy efforts was unacceptable.

135. A delegation underlined the importance of high-level access and the contribution of the presence of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs staff on the ground (ibid., para. 26 (c)) and emphasized the importance of fostering links with both the humanitarian and diplomatic communities at the field and headquarters levels (in line with recommendation 2). Delegations encouraged the Office to continually raise awareness through its information materials and diplomatic contacts. Delegations enquired as to how the Office coordinated its advocacy activities with other humanitarian organizations, such as the Office of UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and whether OIOS had consulted with those organizations in the course of its evaluation.

136. A delegation underlined the importance of political prudence in advocacy, outputs and publications, noting that officials of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (specifically junior staff members who were not cognizant of politically sensitive situations) had at times crossed political lines in their statements, resulting in the inappropriate politicization of issues. The delegation provided as an example the "dramatization" of a report on the use of illegal tunnels between Gaza and Sinai, which it believed would lead readers to sympathize with the users of the tunnels only, and added that the Office had addressed its concerns as soon as they had been raised.

137. Delegations supported the OIOS conclusions on the need to improve internal coordination within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, noting in particular the ineffective coordination between its New York and Geneva offices. Delegations urged the Office to take steps to improve the its effectiveness and overall coordination through representatives at all levels in New York, Geneva and

field offices acting in a coordinated manner and promoting a unified position without contradicting one another. Delegations underlined the importance of the implementation of an internal coordination mechanism under the authority of the Under-Secretary-General/Emergency Relief Coordinator (recommendation 2).

138. A delegation sought clarification from OIOS as to how it had established that the briefings by the Under-Secretary-General/Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Security Council were a determining factor in the adoption of Council resolutions. The delegation expressed the view that the link had been exaggerated in the report, recalled that providing the Council with briefings on consolidated views of humanitarian needs was but one function performed by the Coordinator and stated that referring to the number of briefings provided by the Coordinator as an indicator would not be appropriate. It underlined that the Coordinator only addressed the Council at the invitation of its members and that other considerations were brought to bear when the Council adopted resolutions.

139. A delegation expressed concern over the outcomes of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and suggested that despite the efforts made leading up to the Summit, not enough had been accomplished to maintain the intergovernmental nature of the event and to allow delegations to intervene to achieve specific outputs.

140. A delegation noted the degree of convergence between the findings of the OIOS evaluation and those of the Functional Review commissioned in 2015 by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. A brief update was sought from the Office on the implementation of the recommendations from the Review. The delegation emphasized the need for the Office to consider both reports in the implementation of management reforms under its organizational transformation process.

Conclusions and recommendations

141. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 60 to 62 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, while recognizing the need for alignment with all internal management reforms under way within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2017/11).**

142. **The Committee emphasized the importance of advocacy among other components of the mandate and global work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.**

143. **The Committee emphasized the need for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue the development of an advocacy strategy under its change management process that would include clear objectives and would allow the Office to deploy evidence-based approaches, anchored in the guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance, including humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and noted that the Office could be a more effective voice within the United Nations system for principled humanitarian action.**

6. Evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

144. At its 8th meeting, on 8 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of OHCHR (E/AC.51/2017/9).

145. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the United Nations Deputy

High Commissioner for Human Rights, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

146. Delegations expressed appreciation for the evaluation and noted the important role of OHCHR in promoting and protecting human rights across the world.

147. Several delegations commented on the scope of the evaluation. Noting that in the report it was pointed out that the involvement of resident coordinators was crucial for the mainstreaming of human rights, a delegation expressed the view that the report would be more balanced if it sufficiently reflected the crucial role of United Nations country teams in the area of human rights.

148. Several delegations expressed disappointment at the limited focus of the report on field activities and suggested that other important aspects should have been analysed, including the geographic imbalance of the composition of staff in OHCHR, the imbalanced manner in which OHCHR treated the different categories of human rights and the promotion of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights. The view was also expressed that, by focusing only on field presences, the report focused solely on the developing world, contradicting the universality of the mandate of OHCHR. On the issue of gaps in geographic coverage of OHCHR in the field, a delegation noted that OHCHR did not cover most countries of Europe and North America and requested clarification on what steps were being taken to address that situation. Several delegations expressed the view that the focus on the field presences was timely in the light of the growth of the field presences in the past few years and the role of field offices in helping to draft national human rights laws, plans and policies. A delegation noted the important normative role of OHCHR and asked whether the treaty bodies were included as part of the report.

149. A delegation inquired whether OIOS had conducted an analysis of OHCHR management structures and how they had an impact on the work in the field. The view was expressed that the human resources structure of OHCHR was biased in favour of staff from Western Europe and other States and that that did not reflect the multiplicity of approaches to human rights. On the same topic of management structure, a delegation pointed to the work of human rights advisers and human rights components in peacekeeping operations and asked whether there were two standards of accountability. Clarification was sought on whether the fact that all staff of peacekeeping operations were subordinate to the heads of mission could undermine accountability.

150. On the evaluation methodology, a delegation stated that the results were based primarily on interviews with staff and other United Nations departments, whereas the main beneficiaries were Member States and therefore their views were the ultimate measuring stick for the effectiveness of OHCHR.

151. It was emphasized that all activities of OHCHR must strictly abide by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 48/141 on the High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights. A number of delegations stated that the establishment of field offices, including regional offices, must only happen upon the express request and consent of the host country. A delegation noted with concern that some field operations had been launched without the prior consent of Member States or countries. In that regard, the delegation stressed that OHCHR field offices should not play the role of "human rights police" but rather focus on technical assistance to Member States. Similarly, it was noted that the point made in the report of host countries not being receptive to criticism should be looked at from another perspective, since the goal

of OHCHR was not to criticize but to help countries to fulfil their human rights obligations, particularly in difficult post-conflict situations when there were competing priorities. Therefore, with regard to recommendation 2, on the development of an overarching deployment strategy for OHCHR field presences, several delegations stressed that further considerations were necessary in the light of the fact that OHCHR could only establish field presences upon request.

152. While fully acknowledging the importance of human rights and the mainstreaming of human rights across all United Nations activities, a delegation expressed concern at the use of the term "human rights-based approach" and stressed that no intergovernmental consensus had been reached on the term, including during the negotiations the previous year in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Another delegation expressed appreciation for the human rights-based approach. In relation to the presence of human rights advisers as part of United Nations country teams, a delegation requested clarification on the relationship of the advisers to the "One United Nations" or "Delivering as one" approach, an approach that was not universally implemented, and expressed concern about promoting the presence of human rights advisers to the detriment of other agencies, funds and programmes.

153. Some reservations were expressed regarding recommendation 4, on strengthening the follow-up to special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In that regard, a delegation cited the judicial independence of countries. Another delegation questioned why OHCHR continued to employ and extend the mandate of special rapporteurs who were not accepted by countries. On the same issue, reference was made to paragraph 32 of the report, in which it was stated that no resources were dedicated to supporting the follow-up to recommendations of special procedures, and information was sought on what OHCHR intended to do to find resources.

154. A delegation noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a new paradigm for all Member States, conveyed its disappointment at the absence of any references to the 2030 Agenda in the report and sought clarification on how the 2030 Agenda was being mainstreamed into the work of OHCHR.

155. A delegation expressed the view that the Committee should not lose sight of the important work carried out by OHCHR at its headquarters. It noted that human rights was the least funded of the three pillars of the United Nations and urged sufficient resources for OHCHR to ensure that it could deliver the important backstopping and support it provided for the Human Rights Council, the special procedures and the treaty bodies, as well as all other missions carried out at its headquarters. Clarification was sought on whether it was indeed the case that there were no dedicated resources for special procedures and whether OHCHR had any plans for rectifying the matter.

156. A delegation stressed that OHCHR should allocate current resources in a rational manner and promote all human rights in a balanced way. Reference was made to a reform initiative of the Office aimed at strengthening the field presence, and in that regard it was stressed that such reform initiatives must be undertaken in a transparent manner and in full consultation with Member States. Some delegations expressed disappointment that the reform initiative had initially been implemented without intergovernmental approval and stressed that no further action must be taken until a mandate was given to OHCHR.

157. A delegation noted the risk of earmarked funding compromising the neutrality of OHCHR and inquired about the reasons for the tendency of declining unearmarked funding, advancing, as a possible response, the preference of countries

on having more control over where to spend their funds and their not agreeing with the priorities of OHCHR. In that regard, the view was expressed that OHCHR and instruments created by the Human Rights Council must be financed from the regular budget. Clarification was sought regarding OHCHR fundraising activities in the field and the question was asked of whether the goal of diversifying the donor pool had been achieved. Information was also sought on the role of headquarters and host Governments in fundraising activities and expanding the donor pool. It was noted that the report highlighted potential tensions between Office-wide priorities and donor priorities and the question was raised of whether OIOS had reviewed the OHCHR fundraising policy. Information was also sought on where OHCHR considered it needed more resources to better carry out its work in the field.

Conclusions and recommendations

158. **The Committee decided to defer consideration of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of OHCHR (E/AC.51/2017/9) to its fifty-ninth session.**

7. Evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

159. At its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Office of UNHCR (E/AC.51/2017/2).

160. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and UNHCR, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

161. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report of OIOS and for the work undertaken by UNHCR in challenging circumstances, such as the mixed settings of refugees and internally displaced persons covered by the report. Delegations noted with appreciation the conclusion contained in the report that the engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons had not affected its ability to deliver on its refugee mandate, and a number of delegations expressed support for the recommendations reflected in the report. A delegation noted the importance of the work carried out by UNHCR in upholding human rights. Several delegations emphasized the different nature of internally displaced persons and refugees and the different legislative frameworks guiding the two categories, and reaffirmed State sovereignty and responsibility for internally displaced persons.

162. The need for UNHCR to always abide by its mandates as provided by the relevant resolutions of intergovernmental bodies and by its statute was emphasized, as was the need for it to act in full respect for national sovereignty. In particular, it was stressed that UNHCR must seek engagement with countries of origin and that the vetting process for protection must be fully adhered to.

163. Delegations expressed concerns regarding the protracted nature of refugee and internally displaced persons crises and the growing numbers of displaced people. They also noted some of the constraints faced in dealing with those situations, including security concerns and lack of political will. Also discussed was the fact that the achievement of durable solutions was the lowest-rated area of UNHCR work noted in the report, and it was emphasized that UNHCR must work with development actors and countries of origin to address the root causes of protracted crises. The question of how to distinguish the work of UNHCR from that of other entities that worked in the area of development was raised, as was that of whether long-term refugees constituted an emergency situation or a sustainable development issue.

164. Several delegations acknowledged resource limitations with regard to activities of UNHCR and information was sought on whether the fact that 99 per cent of its budget came from voluntary contributions had an impact on its activities (see E/AC.51/2017/2, para. 13). Information was also sought on the needs-based approach to budgeting, including details on how needs were identified and quantified and whether the needs-based budget of UNHCR was accurate or potentially exaggerated.

165. On the question of monitoring, several delegations raised concerns regarding the lack of data on out-of-camp refugees (ibid., para. 24), and one asked whether in the absence of such data, UNHCR and OIOS could support the claim that living out of camps improved resilience. Further detail was sought about the monitoring by UNHCR of its planning and exit stages. Delegations further noted limitations in the work carried out by UNHCR in collecting and providing feedback from beneficiaries and asked for further details about the process, including whether UNHCR had the means to evaluate the intermediaries it used for the provision of services.

166. A delegation referred to paragraphs 27 and 47 of the report and sought clarification on perspectives on UNHCR performance, notably with regard to durable solutions and information-sharing. Information was sought regarding UNHCR coordination arrangements with United Nations system partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and civil society, as well as the effectiveness of such arrangements. Delegations encouraged effective coordination within the United Nations system to address the complex challenges faced in mixed refugee and internally displaced persons settings. One delegation requested that UNHCR and OCHA track and report on the implementation of the 2014 "Joint UNHCR-OCHA note on mixed situations: coordination in practice". Clarification was sought on the suggestion of a non-governmental co-lead for the protection cluster in some contexts. A delegation sought clarification regarding figure III in the report, notably in reference to the Lake Chad region.

Conclusions and recommendations

167. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 65 to 68 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR (E/AC.51/2017/2), taking into account that those recommendations were presented in the context of mixed settings.**

168. **The Committee noted the challenges faced by UNHCR and its partners in managing the expectations of persons of concern and in improving communication with them. Further to recommendation 2 set out in paragraph 67 of the report, the Committee acknowledged the existing positive practice of UNHCR and its partners in proactively engaging persons of concern and recommended that the General Assembly encourage UNHCR to devise pragmatic, efficient and situation-tailored measures to alleviate those perceived gaps with a view to ensuring proper accountability and easing the frustration of persons of concern with respect to unmet needs.**

169. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly recommend that, when carrying out its activities, UNHCR act fully in accordance with its mandate.**

170. **The Committee recalled that the current activities of UNHCR related to internally displaced persons should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum and noted that OIOS had found that, for the most part, the involvement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons in**

mixed settings did not appear to affect its mandated activities for refugees in the case studies evaluated in recent years. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of this finding.

8. Evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 2017

171. At its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR for 2017 (E/AC.51/2017/10).

172. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and UNHCR, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

173. Delegations expressed appreciation for the report of OIOS, with some voicing support for the recommendations made therein. Delegations also expressed appreciation for the work of UNHCR, which they noted was frequently carried out under very challenging circumstances, with external factors at play and in conjunction with partners. Delegations emphasized the importance of undertaking refugee registration in full coordination with host Governments and of registration for the effective delivery of assistance.

174. While highlighting the importance and complexity of registration of refugees and asylum seekers, delegations raised concerns regarding the quality of registration data and asked how the granularity of such data could be improved. The view was expressed that UNHCR should, in the light of the recommendations made in the report, enhance its results-based approach to monitoring and evaluation. Delegations asked how UNHCR built staff capacity in its geographically dispersed field operations. They also asked UNHCR to describe its progress in reducing registration timelines, in relation to paragraph 28 and figure XII of the report, and called for the streamlining of those timelines wherever circumstances permitted.

175. Clarification was sought with regard to the fact that, in the period under evaluation, UNHCR expenditure was consistently lower than income and needs (according to figures II and VIII), vacancy rates were high (according to figure IX) and registration was conducted at a relatively low staff level (according to para. 42). Delegations wished to know the reasons for those situations, whether UNHCR had difficulties in filling its positions and what solutions it might suggest to tackle the issues. Clarification was also sought on the needs-based approach to budgeting and whether it could potentially contribute to overbudgeting.

176. Delegations noted that OIOS had not delved deeply into all potential protection implications of registration or lack thereof, notably in relation to trafficking in persons, as mentioned in paragraph 30 of the report, and its new dimensions in situations of armed conflict. Some delegations objected to the reference in paragraph 21 of the report to LGBTI persons as a vulnerable population or "persons with specific needs", stressing that there was no consensus on the matter. Serious concern was raised over carrying out of non-consensual activities and using non-consensual terms in reports submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. Some delegations noted that LGBT was an agreed United Nations term, as shown by Human Rights Council resolutions 17/19, 27/32 and 32/2.

Conclusions and recommendations

177. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraph 61 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNHCR for 2017 (E/AC.51/2017/10).**

9. Evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

178. At its 10th meeting, on 9 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNRWA (E/AC.51/2017/3 and Corr.1).

179. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and UNRWA, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

180. Delegations commended UNRWA for its essential contribution to the peace process in the Middle East and for its important humanitarian work in support of Palestine refugees, notably in areas such as education and health and in the improvement of their standard of living (the definition of which was questioned, with a delegation asking whether the standard of living for refugees in Europe was the same as that for refugees in other regions, including Asia). Delegations highlighted that the Agency was operating under increasingly complex and challenging circumstances, owing to constantly evolving external factors.

181. Delegations commented on the lack of resources experienced by the Agency, noting that the number of refugees was constantly increasing, and asked what had been accomplished to broaden the donor base. A delegation emphasized that international commitments to resource mobilization and stabilization were important factors that had further affected the effectiveness of the Agency in meeting the growing needs of Palestine refugees in the region, adding that OIOS could have put forward actionable recommendations in that regard. The delegation recalled that international cooperation, including cooperation among donor countries, was required to ensure that adequate resources were provided. A delegation enquired as to the timeline for the implementation by the Agency of its management response and recommendation action plan, as set out in the annex to the report; what measures had been implemented to improve transparency in the use of resources as an important means of attracting additional funding from the international community; and whether in-kind assistance, such as clothing or means of transportation, from Member States that could not provide cash contributions had been considered, including research on how such contributions would be utilized. In reference to paragraph 12 of the annex to the report, a delegation sought clarification of how a zero-growth budget for 2016 could be reconciled with the unprecedented and ever-increasing number of challenges encountered in the field.

182. Regarding staff resources, a delegation made reference to staff salary scale reform. A delegation acknowledged the need to improve efficiency, while commenting that the ratio of staff to population served was insufficient given the limitations that Palestine refugees faced with regard to livelihoods.

183. A delegation queried how the Agency worked with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of UNHCR and the World Food Programme to increase international mediation on hotspot issues, training and relief assistance associated with peace efforts and to address symptoms and root causes of problems faced by Palestine refugees.

184. Delegations enquired about the timing and data limitations associated with the evaluation, including: (a) whether the report had been completed in 2015 or 2016; (b) the reasons behind the exclusion of human rights work from the evaluation (para. 13); (c) the reasons behind the scarcity of reliable UNRWA-generated data (para. 15); (d) whether the Agency had been unwilling to provide evidence for its claims of progress in implementing OIOS recommendations or merely unable to do so before the report's finalization (para. 67); and (e) whether an attempt had been made to obtain data on or the views of Palestine refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic, which appeared to be missing from data collected, and more broadly what difficulties the Agency was encountering in reaching and delivering services to that population.

185. A delegation sought clarification of whether the new 2016-2021 medium-term strategy incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals for the period 2015-2030, while underlining that the basis of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was to leave nobody behind, and whether a reference to the 2030 Agenda could foster the channelling of necessary resources in support of the work of the Agency.

186. In line with recommendation 1, a delegation called for a stronger monitoring and evaluation function within the Agency so as to strengthen accountability in relation to the use of resources, to monitor the implementation of the 2016-2021 medium-term strategy in order to allow the Agency to deliver cost-efficiencies and to improve targeted core service delivery to those refugees most in need. A delegation expressed the view that monitoring and evaluation were crucial to improve internal management and the ability of the Agency to implement its mandate, to increase contributions from the international community, while taking into account new challenges that might arise, and to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

Conclusions and recommendations

187. **The Committee noted the challenging operational context in which UNRWA worked, commended it on its delivery of services to Palestine refugees despite those challenges and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 68 and 70 of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of UNRWA (E/AC.51/2017/3 and Corr.1), while noting that it was important for UNRWA to strengthen its accountability framework and its results-based monitoring and evaluation functions.**

10. Evaluation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General

188. At its 5th meeting, on 6 June 2017, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2017/7).

189. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

190. Delegations expressed their strong appreciation for the report of OIOS, with many delegations expressing particular appreciation for the usefulness and timing of the report, in particular since results from the evaluation had been shared with the transition team of the Secretary-General designate before he took office. Delegations queried whether, in future, OIOS should continue that good practice in terms of the timing of reports on the evaluation of the Executive Office of the

Secretary-General, and if and when a follow-up evaluation of the Executive Office should be conducted. Delegations also expressed appreciation for changes implemented by the Executive Office that responded to the evaluation findings, noting that it was essential that structures were put in place to ensure that the office of the Secretary-General could function and respond to emerging priorities. A delegation was of the view that the Executive Office should be transparent and provide the necessary information regarding the reform initiatives under way. One delegation further recommended that consideration be given, as a matter of good practice, to OIOS undertaking an evaluation at the end of the term of a Secretary-General.

191. Several delegations raised concerns regarding insufficient time for strategic thinking and policy planning in the Executive Office as indicated in the report of OIOS, and sought clarification about the specific measures that the Executive Office had taken to address the deficiency. Clarification was sought on the issues raised in paragraph 34 of the report, in which it was indicated that holistic, longer-term planning capacities of the Executive Office had declined over time, and in particular, on the approach that was being taken by the team of the current Secretary-General to address that issue.

192. Several delegations highlighted paragraph 39 of the report of OIOS, and sought explanation as to action being taken to address the claims of a lack of an Executive Office unit to pull together analyses from across the system to identify emerging issues or potential crises and follow up on "frozen crises" — those which had disappeared from the news headlines but remained critical from a conflict prevention standpoint.

193. Several delegations sought clarification on the decision-making support provided by the Executive Office, notably in relation to the comments of OIOS in paragraphs 40 to 47 of the report. Clarification was sought on possible measures for improvement. Several delegations sought clarification on whether the work of the Policy Committee, the Management Committee and the Senior Action Group would be absorbed by the newly created Executive Committee. In the event that those committees continued to operate, clarification was sought as to how they would interact to avoid duplication. Some delegations queried the new decision-making structures introduced by the new Secretary-General and the roles of the Executive Committee and Management Committee in relation to one another. Further, clarification was sought on the distinction between the two new senior positions that were established in the Executive Office, namely the Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination and the Senior Adviser on Policy.

194. As regards paragraphs 48 to 50 of the report, some delegations sought clarification on specific measures that had been taken to avoid the overlap in functions and responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary-General and the Chef de Cabinet, as observed in the past.

195. On the issue of time management of activities of the Executive Office, one delegation expressed concern that insufficient time was dedicated to providing guidance to the wider Organization, and stressed that it was important to "keep the United Nations system electrified by sending out the right pulses to the system", for example, through the Executive Office adopting new approaches in its work and in the hiring of staff for the Office. Several delegations expressed support for efforts being taken to break down the silos within the Executive Office, as well as support for the need to address that issue in the wider United Nations system. Delegations also reaffirmed the role of the Executive Office in directing and not duplicating the work of substantive departments, stressing the importance of transparency and the effective use of human resources.

196. A view was expressed that while many special initiatives had been undertaken, some initiatives were being drawn up without interaction with Member States. One delegation raised questions regarding the Human Rights Up Front initiative (para. 51 of the report), stressing that financial resources continued to be spent on the initiative, despite the fact that no mandate had been provided by an intergovernmental body. The delegation sought clarification on the status of the unit implementing the initiative, enquiring for example as to whether it was still headed by a D-1 post and whether its placement continued to be in the Executive Office. Further, the delegation noted that the initiative had been funded through voluntary contributions and hence did not have scrutiny by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

197. Some delegations expressed their concerns regarding the level of extrabudgetary resources versus regular budget resources, questioning why the Executive Office was reliant on extrabudgetary funds. It was noted in particular that the analysis and planning capacity within the Executive Office was being financed through extrabudgetary funds, and in view of the issues highlighted in the report of OIOS pertaining to strategic thinking and policy planning, clarification was sought on whether requests for resources would be included in the forthcoming budget proposals.

198. Several delegations expressed concern at the imbalance in the level of staff resources dedicated to the Economic, Social and Development Affairs Unit as compared to that of the Rule of Law Unit and the Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights Unit within the Executive Office. Recalling that the Organization was trying to shape a new development agenda, clarifications were sought on measures being taken to address such imbalances.

199. Regarding some inefficiencies in the servicing processes of the Executive Office as highlighted in paragraph 29, some delegations questioned the "trip captain" rotation system, which typically required substantive officers to spend three to four weeks undertaking detailed trip planning, including substantive work on the programme as well as logistics and ceremonial protocol functions, and questioned in particular why no recommendations had been put forward in the report of OIOS to address the issue. As concerns protocol functions, a delegation indicated that the functions should be performed by trained professionals.

200. Different views were expressed as to whether the Committee should make its own recommendations to the Executive Office, separate from those already made by OIOS. A delegation was of the view that the Committee's recommendations should focus on the future so that past mistakes were not repeated, which would help to make the Executive Office effective. One delegation was of the view that it was not convinced that the Committee should make recommendations that would have a formal nature. Notably, the delegation was of the view that the Committee should formulate messages of encouragement about reform but was not convinced that the Committee should go beyond that.

201. Some delegations reiterated that all the initiatives carried out by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General should be in compliance with intergovernmental mandates.

Conclusions and recommendations

202. **The Committee took note of the report of OIOS on the evaluation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2017/7).**

11. Thematic evaluation of the regional commissions

203. At its 6th meeting, on 7 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of OIOS on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2017/8).

204. The Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and, together with representatives of OIOS and the Regional Commissions New York Office, responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

205. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the report and its recommendations. They also noted their appreciation for the work of the regional commissions in providing statistical support to the Member States in their respective regions, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

206. Delegations expressed agreement in recognizing that multiple actors and partners were involved in providing statistical support to Member States and noted that it was important to enhance synergies and cooperation in that regard between the regional commissions and with other entities in the United Nations system. In that context, information was sought on possible measures to increase the frequency and quality of the exchange of knowledge between the regional commissions and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

207. Information was sought on how the report and the recommendations contained therein aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations and decisions made in that context. Information was also sought about the use of the phrase "key statistics". Highlighting the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, namely, economic, social and environmental, a delegation stressed the need to treat the three dimensions equally and, therefore, cautioned against the use of terms such as "key statistics", for which no legislative mandate existed. Similarly, in reference to paragraph 18 of the report and the "Statistics for Transparency, Accountability and Results: A Busan Action Plan for Statistics" mentioned therein, a delegation, while not questioning that document itself, expressed reservations about using accords and agreements negotiated outside the framework of the United Nations as references in the reports discussed by the Committee.

208. Delegations expressed agreement on the importance of having statistics and open and accessible data as an essential component of promoting sustainable development and the Goals, as well as the importance of the regional commissions in enhancing Member State statistical capacity. The need to further focus on the dissemination and use of statistics was emphasized, and information was sought on the types of activities that could be undertaken to enhance the use and sharing of statistics to more widely inform decision-making.

209. Clarification was sought on what appeared to be an inconsistency between the statistical support needs of countries and the relatively low amount of resources spent on capacity-building and technical assistance for the modernization of statistics.

210. Appreciation was expressed for the important work done by ECLAC in support of the statistical capacities of the region, which had been fully reported on in a previous evaluation.

211. A number of delegations stressed the importance of dedicating sufficient resources to the development of capacity for data dissemination, gathering and

analysis at the national level. A delegation further stressed that, to properly channel technical assistance to Member States, it was necessary to empower the United Nations by allocating regular budgetary resources to related activities rather than relying principally on extrabudgetary resources. Several delegations emphasized the finite nature of resources and expressed the view that there was significant scope to use existing resources through enhanced collaboration between the regional commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations country teams and all development actors, and stressed the need to reprioritize activities in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that regard, a delegation sought information on how the regional commissions were adapting to the new reality of the 2030 Agenda and how they were reprioritizing activities.

212. With regard to recommendation 1, a delegation stressed the importance of capacity at the national level and noted that it would have been appropriate to include other elements, namely "ownership of States on statistics collection" and "statistics culture".

213. Reference was made to recommendation 2, which highlighted the need to include actions to secure supplementary resources, and it was stressed that, while it was within the prerogative of OIOS to make a judgment on resources, the Committee did not have a mandate to discuss budgetary questions. In that regard, clarification was sought on how the Committee should deal with the recommendation without encroaching on the mandate of the Fifth Committee.

214. With regard to recommendation 5, a delegation suggested that the recommendation in the report encouraging greater coordination and collaboration between the regional commissions be expanded to also include other close partners, in particular the Statistics Division, and sought the views of OIOS and the regional commissions thereon. A delegation sought clarification as to how the interaction might be improved and be more frequent and face-to-face, rather than merely through a conference call once every two months, as detailed in paragraph 46 of the report.

215. Several delegations emphasized that regional commissions should, upon request, align their support to national statistical capacities in conformity with national policies, standards and priorities and without compromising national ownership and leadership.

Conclusions and recommendations

216. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained in paragraphs 53 and 55 to 57 of the report on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions (E/AC.51/2017/8). The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 54.**

217. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their support to national statistical offices by streamlining coordination with Member States and within and among regional commissions.**

218. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to improve the effectiveness of their knowledge dissemination by developing measurable outreach strategies that guide the issuance of their knowledge products.**

12. Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme

219. The Committee resumed its consideration of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (E/AC.51/2016/2), the consideration of which had been deferred from the fifty-sixth session of the Committee (see A/71/16).

Discussion

220. The Committee's discussion on the report, during its fifty-sixth session, is set out in its report (A/71/16, sect. II.C).

Conclusions and recommendations

221. The Committee welcomed the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (E/AC.51/2017/8).

222. The Committee noted the conclusion in the report that, out of five recommendations, one had been fully implemented, three had been partially implemented and one had not yet been implemented. The Committee further noted that, subsequent to the issuance of the report, the United Nations Environment Programme had issued operational guidance for regional offices and had thus completed the implementation of the related recommendation.

223. The Committee commended the United Nations Environment Programme for the progress it had made in implementing the Committee's recommendations.

224. The Committee noted the expressed intention of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the remaining recommendations fully.

225. The Committee expressed its confidence that the United Nations Environment Programme would finalize implementation of the Committee's recommendations as soon as possible in order to become even more effective in assisting Member States especially when establishing, in line with its mandate, clear and transparent criteria for allocating resources to the thematic activities, based on results-based management.

13. Triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

226. The Committee resumed its consideration of the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2016/3), the consideration of which had been deferred from the fifty-sixth session of the Committee (see A/71/16).

Discussion

227. The Committee's discussion on the report, during its fifty-sixth session, is set out in its report (A/71/16, sect. II.C).

Conclusions and recommendations

228. The Committee expressed its appreciation to OIOS for the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at

its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2016/3).

229. **The Committee noted with appreciation that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had implemented all of the Committee's recommendations, as reflected in the report.**

230. **The Committee placed particular emphasis on the need for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to make progress in the use of coordinated joint needs assessments and prioritized humanitarian response plans and for it to contribute, as appropriate, to closer cooperation between humanitarian and development actors.**

231. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build upon the success highlighted in the triennial review, which presents a strong foundation for that Office to continue to play a leading role in efforts to improve humanitarian response and coordination, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and in cooperation with national agencies of Member States.**

Chapter III
Coordination questions

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016

232. At its 11th meeting, on 9 June 2017, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2016 (E/2017/55).

233. The Director of the secretariat of CEB introduced the report and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

234. Delegations welcomed the comprehensive report on the activities of CEB during 2016. Appreciation and support was widely expressed for the Board's work to promote system-wide coordination, maximize coherence, avoid duplication and optimize the use of resources in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental mandates. Delegations stressed the importance of continuing to ensure that the Board's work was guided by such mandates.

235. Similarly, it was observed that individual United Nations system entities were expected to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental processes within their individual institutional mandates. Delegations stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of work among United Nations organizations.

236. Welcoming the support of the United Nations Development Group for the United Nations country teams, a delegation highlighted in particular the value of the guidelines on support for voluntary and country-led reporting on national goals. United Nations system support for Member States was also broadly appreciated. It was seen as essential that the system was "pulling in the same direction", including through the Resident Coordinator system. While acknowledging "Delivering as one" to be a positive initiative, its voluntary nature was reiterated and it was recalled that a recommendation emphasizing that point had been adopted by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session.

237. The need for the United Nations system to take measures to improve operational activities for development was emphasized by several delegations, which highlighted the role of CEB in that context. The expectation that the Board would enhance its transparency in line with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review resolution through regular briefings to the Economic and Social Council (see General Assembly resolution 71/243, para. 45 (c)) was recalled.

238. It was recognized by several delegations that CEB and its subsidiary machinery were uniquely positioned to leverage the strengths and expertise of the United Nations system to realize improvements in human resources, finance, procurement and other management functions. Broad appreciation was expressed for the achievements of the High-level Committee on Management in improving efficiency in such areas. Several delegations supported continuing work on harmonization and simplification of business practices with a view to realizing further efficiencies and continuing to enhance effectiveness across the system. The hope was expressed that the Board would inform and support the Secretary-General's management reform initiatives.

239. On human resources, it was observed by a delegation that there was an opportunity for further reform, including allowing more flexible deployment of personnel across United Nations system entities and increased support for skills development. The uniform application of human resources reforms and timely implementation of decisions by the International Civil Service Commission were also called for across the system.

240. Regarding procurement, appreciation was expressed for having increased the number of registrations of vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Questions were raised concerning what other work had been undertaken by the High-level Committee on Management related to procurement during the reporting period, and also on what other categories of goods and/or services were being considered for common procurement processes, such as long-term agreements.

241. Work carried out under the auspices of CEB to facilitate information and knowledge management and to promote multilingualism was also welcomed by a delegation. More information was sought on the adoption by the Board of the Akoma Ntoso (AKN) eXtensible Markup Language (XML) standard for the United Nations documentation environment that had been developed by the High-level Committee on Management working group on document standards. The benefits of the common standard were acknowledged, including achieving efficiencies in document management and productivity gains in the translation process, as well as supporting multilingualism and greater accessibility to United Nations documents by persons with disabilities.

242. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the Board's role, through the High-level Committee on Programmes in promoting system-wide coordination in the follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits. Support was also expressed for the work of the High-level Committee on Programmes on enhancing system-wide policy coherence. It was stated that the production of joint policy papers on cross-cutting themes was positive and should be more broadly promoted. The shared United Nations system framework for action on equality and non-discrimination and the common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action were welcomed in particular.

243. A delegation expressed appreciation for the Board's support for enhancing the support of the United Nations system for trade and investment. Clarification was sought as to the expected timeline for the dissemination of the recommendations on how the United Nations system could best enhance the overall effectiveness of its support for enhancing the flow of foreign direct investment to the least developed countries.

244. The coordination activities in which the Board engaged with other jointly financed bodies, namely, the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, were acknowledged by a delegation.

Conclusions and recommendations

245. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2016 (E/2017/55).**

246. **The Committee recognized the contributions of CEB throughout 2016 to enhance United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination in policy, operational and management matters.**

247. **The Committee expressed support for the continuing work of the CEB, within existing mandates, on the harmonization and simplification of business practices aimed at increasing the coherence, coordination, effectiveness,**

efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system. The Committee reiterated its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to address that issue.

248. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to include in the reports of CEB to the Committee information on actions undertaken on the wide range of programmatic, management and operational issues linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to also continue to include in the aforementioned report information on a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action within the context of the Paris Agreement.**

249. **The Committee reiterated its recommendations to the General Assembly to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that the Board's activities and initiatives, including those relating to system-wide coherence, encompassed the principle of voluntary adoption of "Delivering as one" as defined in General Assembly resolution 71/243, and were fully in line with intergovernmental mandates.**

250. **The Committee recognized the continued efforts of CEB to engage with Member States, including, but not limited to, the use of its website, to further enhance and strengthen the Board's transparency and accountability to Member States.**

251. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to foster a coordinated approach to multilingualism, which was a core value of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.**

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

252. At its 11th meeting, on 9 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2017/12).

253. The Director and Acting Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

254. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and commended the Acting Special Adviser on the comprehensiveness of the report and the details provided therein.

255. Several delegations expressed support for the work of the Office in strengthening the coherence and coordination of the support provided by the United Nations system to NEPAD, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. Several delegations welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa, as well as the achievement of peace and security, good governance and rule of law in Africa. A number of delegations encouraged continued efforts in support of NEPAD and Africa in the areas of peace,

security and socioeconomic development, highlighting the need, in particular, to continue efforts in support of African Member States, the African Union and African regional economic communities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the importance of the domestication of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

256. One delegation noted the important role of NEPAD as the development arm of the African Union and its role in driving the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The significant development potential of Africa was highlighted, in particular in view of its growing economy and potential demographic dividends.

257. Several delegations emphasized the need to mobilize and foster partnerships and to enhance coordination in the implementation of the peace, security and development agenda in Africa and welcomed the diversification of international partnerships with Africa. A number of delegations reiterated the importance of bilateral, triangular, multilateral and South-South cooperation, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the partnership between Belarus and Africa, among other partnerships, in mobilizing resources and supporting the implementation of NEPAD and the development of Africa, in particular through Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023).

258. One delegation noted that many challenges highlighted in the report were interlinked, stressing that peace and security remained a problem and that, without peace and security, development would not be possible. In that regard, there was a need to coordinate and strengthen partnership links with countries interested in providing assistance to Africa. That delegation, however, noted that, contrary to what was stated in paragraph 121 of the report with regard to the support of the United Nations system for predictable financing for African Union peace operations, the Security Council was not responsible for financing decisions, because other bodies were mandated with the responsibility for mobilizing resources.

259. A delegation expressed the view that adequate resources should be allocated, through a holistic approach, to all stakeholders to ensure the effective and full implementation of NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another delegation called on the international community to honour its commitments on aid to Africa. One delegation expressed concern regarding the anticipated decrease in funding to sub-Saharan Africa by the International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank, as stated in paragraph 97 of the report, and expressed the hope that more efforts would be made to mobilize help for Africa in the short to medium term.

260. With regard to the lack of an evaluation framework, which was mentioned in paragraph 112 of the report, one delegation emphasized that, without such a framework, it would be difficult to attribute the support provided by the United Nations to NEPAD, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and underlined the need to put in place such a framework as a matter of urgency. It was noted that the specific details of the activities earmarked for NEPAD and Agenda 2063 should be reflected in the report.

261. Several delegations stressed the need to give full attention and coordinated support for the implementation of commitments related to youth and the empowerment of women, in line with the African Union theme for 2017: "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth". One delegation stated that Africa was a young continent and that it was important to give attention to young people, noting that not enough policies were in place for them.

262. Questions were raised by a delegation on the role of the Office in reviewing commitments made towards the development of Africa. Another question was raised by a delegation about the role of the United Nations in supporting the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative.

263. One delegation pointed out that a meeting on agro-industry had been convened by the President of the Economic and Social Council in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in April 2017, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. It was also noted by a delegation that a forum on Africa and Belarus had been convened in June 2017 with the aim of strengthening their strategic partnership. One delegation noted that, at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in 2015, 10 cooperation plans had been announced in line with Agenda 2063 and NEPAD, aimed at strengthening cooperation between China and Africa.

264. Regarding paragraph 5 of the report, one delegation sought additional information on the specific infrastructure projects that would be funded by the World Bank. With regard to paragraph 65, further clarification was requested on the workshops organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa. In particular, more detail was sought on how the capacity of African national statistical offices had been strengthened.

265. Concerning paragraph 119 of the report, one delegation suggested the following amendment to the wording to bring it in line with agreed language: "eliminate all types of trafficking of persons and address the challenges posed by the illegal smuggling of migrants".

266. A delegation expressed the view that the Office should be provided, especially from the regular budget, with all the resources necessary to fulfil its mandated activities, and emphasized the importance of those resources being distributed among the divisions of the Office in an equitable and balanced manner.

Conclusions and recommendations

267. **The Committee welcomed the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 114 to 127 of the report (E/AC.51/2017/12), in a manner that was consistent with intergovernmental mandates.**

268. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to include, in his future reports, detailed information relating to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.**

269. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and called upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special development needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities, including the financing of programmes and projects, resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance.**

270. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely with the Planning and Coordinating Agency of NEPAD, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in order to continue to support the United Nations-African**

Union partnership on Africa's integration and developmcnt agenda for 2017-2027 and Agenda 2063.

271. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly emphasize the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to take into consideration the views, comments and/or inputs of regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in their policy formulations and decision-making, mainly in the areas of mediation, conflict prevention and peace and security, in accordance with Charter of the United Nations.**

272. **The Committee also recommended that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD continue to include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, while stressing that future reports should further enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership.**

273. **The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to include information on the activities undertaken by the Office in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda.**

274. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on NEPAD, to include information on the activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence.**

275. **The Committee emphasized the need for United Nations entities to continue their efforts in support of the region to address challenges relating to governance, youth unemployment, extremism and terrorism and recommended that the Secretary-General include information in that regard in his report.**

276. **The Committee recognized the important role played by the development of infrastructure in Africa, and recommended that the General Assembly reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area, in the context of the initiatives of the regional economic communities.**

277. **The Committee emphasized the need for the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to provide information in that regard.**

Chapter IV
Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system

278. The Committee resumed its consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system" (see A/70/686) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (see A/70/686/Add.1), the consideration of which had been deferred from the fifty-sixth session of the Committee (see A/71/16).

Discussion

279. The Committee's discussion on the report, during its fifty-sixth session, is set out in its report (A/71/16, sect. IV).

Conclusions and recommendations

280. **The Committee expressed satisfaction that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit were once again being submitted for consideration and reaffirmed that one of the key mandates of the Committee was to assist the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on coordination questions. It recommended that the Assembly urge the Unit to intensify its efforts to introduce relevant reports to the Committee.**

281. **The Committee emphasized the need for the implementation of all the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit that had been endorsed by intergovernmental bodies and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to invite the executive heads of the participating organizations to continue to provide information to the relevant intergovernmental bodies on the status of implementation of the Unit recommendations addressed to them.**

282. **The Committee took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system" (A/70/686) and recommended that the General Assembly endorse the recommendations contained therein and request the Secretary-General to expedite, as appropriate, their full and effective implementation.**

283. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make better use of in-house expertise to carry out evaluations found in the various entities of the Secretariat, drawing upon, in particular, the experience available from the internal and external oversight bodies, notably OIOS, the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit.**

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee

284. In accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its fifty-eighth session, together with the required documentation.

285. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

286. The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the current session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance for the biennium 2016-2017

   (b) Programme planning;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2020-2021: part one, plan outline, and part two, biennial programme plan (General Assembly resolutions 59/275, 62/224 and 71/6)

   (c) Evaluation.

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the evaluation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of

the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of the International Trade Centre (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (General Assembly resolution 70/8)

4. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

   Documentation

   Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2017 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))

   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-eighth session.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its fifty-seventh session

A/71/6/Rev.1	Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019
A/72/84, Corr.1, Corr.2 and A/72/84/Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019
	Relevant sections (issued as fascicles) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019
A/72/6 (Sect. 3)	Political affairs
A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1	Trade and development
A/72/6 (Sect. 15)	Human settlements
A/72/6 (Sect. 29E)	Office of Information and Communications Technology
A/72/6 (Sect. 34)	Safety and security
A/72/73/Rev.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (article VII and annex)
A/72/72	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives
E/2017/55	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2016
E/AC.51/2016/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme
E/AC.51/2016/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
E/AC.51/2017/12	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/AC.51/2017/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
E/AC.51/2017/3 and Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
E/AC.51/2017/4	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

E/AC.51/2017/5	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Economic Commission for Europe
E/AC.51/2017/6 and Corr.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs
E/AC.51/2017/7	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General
E/AC.51/2017/8	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of the regional commissions
E/AC.51/2017/9	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/AC.51/2017/10	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 2017
E/AC.51/2017/11	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
A/70/686	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system"
A/70/686/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Analysis of the evaluation function in the United Nations system"
E/AC.51/2017/L.3	Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2017/L.4 and Add.1-24	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/2017/INF/1	List of delegations

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